

I oppose any further deregulation of the public media which would allow fewer owners to control more channels of communication. I believe such consolidation is harmful to consumers because it allows a single entity to make decisions about what information may reach a given populace in a way which risks inhibiting alternative opinions and perspectives. Our electorate is already over-informed but under-educated on important issues that affect their lives. Further, the modern barrage of media messages is so exhausting that it is naive to assume that consumers will diligently seek all perspectives before deciding on an issue. We need each media outlet to present us with alternative viewpoints. The media companies are aware of this, but it is advantageous for both commerce and government to have a docile population. A docile population is not advantageous to democracy however; the emergence of strong public policy and adequate protection for consumers is best achieved through informed, widespread and vigorous discourse. It is not healthy for single individuals to have overreaching influence. On the political spectrum, consolidated media control leaves us closer to dictatorship than democracy. Here is a clue: all dictatorships control their mass media.